

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116  
USSN 09/771,664

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the original Abstract and replace with the Abstract shown on the following  
page:

### ABSTRACT

A method for the protection of fiber optic ring-shaped transport networks, the networks including network elements connected by spans, optical paths being installed between the network elements, the method including the steps of providing each network element with information concerning the network architecture; providing each network element with information concerning configuration data of the network elements; providing each network element with information concerning criteria for triggering the mechanism; establishing an information exchange protocol comprising a set of messages and of rules; establishing a traffic rerouting method, wherein the configuration data include the ring map, the traffic map, the wavelength and the bit rate concerning every path.